



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WITH COMMUNION

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

A Simple Song
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*

Leonard Bernstein

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Bread of Heaven

David Ashley White

Bread of heaven, on thee we feed: for thy Flesh is meat indeed:
ever may our souls be fed with this true and living Bread;
day by day with strength supplied through the life of Him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy Blood supplies this blest cup of sacrifice;
Lord, thy wounds our healing give, to thy cross we look and live:
Jesu, may we ever be grafted, rooted, built in thee.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Why have we gathered on this holy day?
What has drawn us to this time and place?
We have been drawn to a flame burning here.
We sense the glory of God in this place.
God calls us to this time of worship.
The place where we are standing is holy ground.
Give thanks to God: sing praises.
Give attention to the voice of God.
Out of a burning bush, God spoke to Moses.
In the rhythms of worship, God speaks to us.
We will listen for God's message to us.
Surely God's strength will supply our needs.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

We tremble to think that the Source of all life,
the Creator of all worlds, is in this place, observing our worship,
knowing our innermost secrets, calling us by name.
O God, we dare to call on you, to bow before you, to welcome your Word.
We tremble to think what you might expect of us,
for we remember what you expected of Moses.
You sent him against the rulers of his people to win release from oppression.
You sent him from the comfortable places he knew
to plead for freedom amid threatening conditions.
We dare worship you, O God, knowing that you expect much from us.
Amen.

* HYMN #52

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

GO DOWN MOSES

1 When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land, let my peo - ple go;
2 "Thus saith the Lord," bold Mo - ses said, "Let my peo - ple go!
3 "No more shall they in bond-age toil: let my peo - ple go!
4 O let us all from bond-age flee; let my peo - ple go!

op-pressed so hard they could not stand, let my peo-ple go!
If not, I'll smite your first-born dead. Let my peo-ple go!"
Let them come out with E - gypt's spoil: let my peo-ple go!"
And let us all in Christ be free: let my peo-ple go!

Refrain

Go down, (go down,) Mo - ses, (Mo - ses,) way down in E - gypt's

land; tell old Pha - raoh: let my peo-ple go!

Nothing in Hebrew Scripture resonated more deeply with the experience of African Americans in North America than Israel's slavery in Egypt. In this spiritual's recurring line, "Let my people go," past and present became one, as they still do for all who are oppressed.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

GO DOWN MOSES
8.5.8.5 with refrain

*** CALL TO CONFESSION**

Brad Niepokny

So often we are complainers, not seekers.
We proclaim our innocence and justify our anger
when so much in life does not go the way we had hoped.
We blame God for conditions entrusted to our stewardship.
We become stumbling blocks, not facilitators of God's design.
Let us seek reconciliation with our God.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering,
and we have not persevered in prayer.
We have claimed to be wiser than we are and have even tried to correct you.
We make excuses for ourselves
rather than listening for your direction and heeding your call.
Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world
that we cannot see your reign among us.
We are so weighed down by our own concerns
that we have no energy to serve in your realm.
Send your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God.
(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE ELEISON

John Merbecke

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is ever willing to grant us forgiveness,
but we cannot receive it if we are unwilling to be changed by it.
As long as we focus on preserving our own lives,
protecting our advantages, we will be lost.
If we want to be Christ's followers,
we will deny ourselves and take up the cross,
not as a burden,
but as the joyous symbol of loving and giving for all the right reasons.
We will overcome evil with good.
Alleluia and Amen!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA #581

Glory be to the Father

GREATOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.**

OFFERTORY

Please be seated:

God invites us to observe the misery of our sisters and brothers who live in oppression and poverty.

We have the resources to help make a difference in their lives.

Beyond the limits of charity,

we are challenged to invest our lives for the mutual benefit of all God's children.

Let us give as God has blessed us, with joy.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Everett Titcomb

Jesus! Name of wondrous love! Name all other names above!
Unto which must every knee bow in deep humility.

Jesus! Name decreed of old to the maiden mother told,
kneeling in her lowly cell, by the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth to the fallen sons of earth,
for the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save!"
Jesus! Name of wondrous love!

* DOXOLOGY #607

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise Christ, all people here below;

praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Brad Niepokny

Let us join our voices in prayer:

May our offerings be an expression of genuine love
that reflects your love for us, O God.

We seek to honor you as we serve one another in Christ's name.

We reach out to overcome evil with good.

Direct our use of the resources you entrust to us

that we may not only contribute to the needs of the saints

but also devote our lives

to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued.

Amen

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

All Things Come of Thee

Herbert C. Peabody

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together:

God of All Wisdom, since the dawn of history,
you have spoken to your people to teach us and guide us.
Speak to us again this day,
and let your Holy Spirit open our minds and hearts to understand.
Speak to us, Lord, in this hour.
In the name of that Holy Spirit we pray.
Amen.

THE READINGS

Psalter Psalm 105:1-7a, 23-26.45b (Inclusive Bible)
Read Responsively

Alleluia!

Give thanks to YHWH,
and call on God's Name;
proclaim God's deeds among the peoples!

Sing to God; sing praise,
and tell of all God's marvels!

Glory in God's holy Name;
let the hearts that seek YHWH rejoice!

Turn to YHWH—to God's strength—
and seek God's presence constantly.

Remember the marvels God has done—
the wonders performed and the judgments
pronounced—

you descendants of Sarah and Abraham,
God's faithful ones,

you offspring of Leah, Rachel and Jacob,
who are God's chosen.

Then Israel migrated to Egypt,
and settled in the land of Ham.

YHWH made the people fertile
and more numerous than their oppressors,

whose hearts were turned to detest God's people
and to conspire against God's faithful.

God sent Moses, Miriam and Aaron,
God's faithful chosen ones,

Alleluia!

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.
With God's help we are listening.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thornbush. Moses saw—"The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it isn't consumed!", Moses said, "Let me go over and look at this remarkable sight—and see why the bush doesn't burn up!"

When YHWH saw Moses coming to look more closely, God called out to him from the midst of the bush: "Moses! Moses!"

Moses answered, "I am here."

God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground!"

"I am the God of your ancestors," the voice continued, "the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!"

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One.

Then YHWH said, "I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have heard their cries under those who oppress them; I have felt their sufferings. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey—the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have watched how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, go! I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?"

God answered, "I will be with you, and this is the sign by which you will know that it is I who have sent you: after you bring my people out of Egypt, you will all worship at this very mountain."

"But," Moses said, "when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is this god's name?' what am I to tell them?"

God replied, "I AM AS I AM. This is what you will tell the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God spoke further to Moses: "Tell the children of Israel: 'YHWH, the 'I AM,' the God of your ancestors, the God of Sarah and Abraham, of Rebecca and Isaac, of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my Name forever; this is the name you are to remember for all generations."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

"On Holy Ground"



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HOLY COMMUNION

* HYMN #495 *Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee* ADORO TE DEVOTE

Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee,
who at this blessed feast art pleased to be;
both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail,
yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.

* INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The invitation is simple: come and eat of the feast.
Not a meal to nourish the body, but to feed the soul.

We receive the bread and the fruit of the vine connected to the ages:
to the saint of old who felt unworthy,
to the seeker eager to know God,
to the teenager who wonders what it's all about,
to the child who eats with unburdened faith.

Woven into this time, the hopes and tears of generations.
There is great joy here.
No one is turned away for God is the host!

* HYMN #495 *Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee* ADORO TE DEVOTE

Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God,
cleansing us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.

* PRAYER

God is in this place.
And in our hearts.

Open yourself to the nudging God.
We feel the breath of the Spirit.

Remember God made flesh.
Jesus, who taught us a new way.

(Allow silence to speak for a few moments.)

Tender, transforming God, you have invited us to gather at this table,
to taste the feast,
the same abundant promises offered to our ancestors in faith.

Time and time again you've offered your grace,
even as we have stepped away,
You continue to call us to be your people.

You have never left us.
We praise you for second, third, and fourth chances.
You are ever-patient, always faithful.

We give thanks for this time of celebration.
For the One this meal remembers.
For the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

With those who have gone before us,
whose hands touched the bread,
whose lips embraced the cup,
We worship you.
We glorify you.

This is the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Bless them and your people all around the world. As we eat of these common elements, unite our spirits in love for you, and our hearts in love for one another. In the name of the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sustainer.

* HYMN #495

Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee ADORO TE DEVOTE
O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
may what we thirst for soon our portion be,
to gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
the vision of thy glory and thy grace.

(Please be seated)

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:
Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.
Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.
"This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."

And pouring the fruit of the vine into the cup, he blessed it saying:
Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam borei p'ri hagafen.
Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.
"This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, send power upon these gifts, your bread and your cup.
God of all, send your Spirit to this place
so that those gathered here, in this sacred moment,
may know your presence.

As we eat the bread and drink of the cup,
make us one with the saints,
and with our sisters, siblings and brothers in faith around the world.
Be with us God, not only here but in every moment of our lives.
Help us
To know you,
To be guided by the Holy Spirit,
And to live Christ.
Now and forever.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

We pray for all those in need of healing, comfort or strength,
whether it be of body, mind, or spirit. We pray for...

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

CALL TO THE FEAST

This is the feast prepared for you.
Come and share for all is ready.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The Body of Christ broken for you.
The Blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Ave Verum

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ave, verum corpus
natum de Maria Virgine,
Vere passum immolatum
In cruce pro homine,
Cujus latus perforatum
Vero fluxit sanguine,
Esto nobis praegustatum
in mortis examine.

Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Who truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for man,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste
In the test of death.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Creative, connecting God,
you have sent your Spirit and made us the body of Christ;
From child-like faith, to youthful energy,
from middle-aged mindfulness, to elder's wisdom.
We thank you for this time, this remembrance. Amen.

Capo 2: (D)

(G) (A) (Bm)
A B C#m

1 Praise God for this ho - ly ground,
2 Praise God in whose word we find
3 Praise God who through Christ makes known
4 Praise God's Spir - it who be - friends,
5 Though praise ends, praise is be - gun

(Em7) (D/F#) (Em7) (Asus4) (A)
F#m7 E/G# F#m7 Bsus4 B

place and peo - ple, sight and sound.
food for bod - y, soul, and mind.
all are loved and called God's own.
rais - es, hum - bles, breaks, and mends.
where God's will is glad - ly done.

Refrain (D) (G) (Em7) (A) (F#7) (Bm)
E A F#m7 B G#7 C#m

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

(D) (Em7) (A7) (D)
E F#m7 B7 E

God's good - ness is e - ter - nal.

Although several passages in the Psalms come close to the wording of this refrain, none matches it exactly. The refrain serves as a summation of the stanzas, each of which is filled with multiple instances of God's providential mercy, and all of them are worth pondering.

* BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

Seek everyday the presence we have known here.

God offers strength for every challenge we face.

We will give thanks and call on God's name.

We will open our eyes to see God's daily miracles.

God promises life in all its fullness, not earthly riches.

Life is fruitful when lived for others.

With mutual affection, we honor one another.

With hope and joy, we reach out helping hands.

Let worship continue as we pray for one another.

May God's will be done as we overcome evil with good.

Praise God for all the wonders of life.

Praise God for opportunities to serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

Peter Lutkin

POSTLUDE

Procesión Alegre (Joyous Recession)

Garry A. Cornell

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
Psalm 73:26*

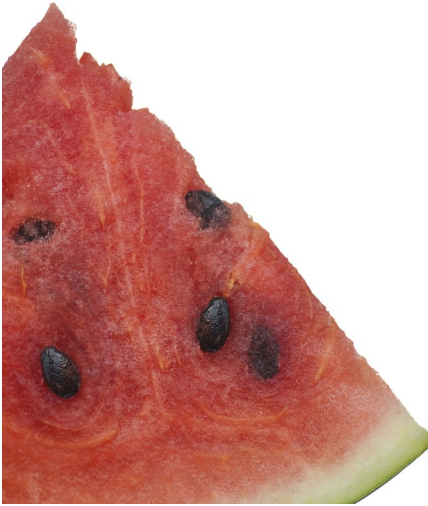


We continue to keep in our prayers:

Faith Battan, Barney Taxel, Gail Reid, Mark Merritt, Angela Hendricks, Karen Cogar,
JoAnn Hood and Family

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.



OLD STONE CHURCH HOMECOMING PICNIC NEXT SUNDAY

*Sunday, September 10, 2023 2:30–5:30PM

*North Olmsted Community Cabin

28114 Lorain Road North Olmsted, Oh 44070

*Raffle to benefit Compassionate Friends Fund

*Dinner, Fellowship, Games

*Bring a Side Dish or Dessert to share

Sign up sheets are located outside of the Chapel
and at the Public Square entrance.

Thank you to the Old Stone Deacons for organizing the picnic!

WALK WITH NAMI IN 2023

It's not how far we walk at **NAMIWalks Greater Cleveland** on **September 23 at Edgewater Park**,
but how far we've come to make our milestones count.
With your support and high spirits, we intend to make an unprecedented impact on mental health in
our community.

NAMIWalks 2023 represents a powerful chance to leave a significant mark on the local mental health
landscape.

Whether you're a previous participant or a new voice waiting to be heard, we're pretty sure you'll find
the festivities inspired *and* inspiring.

9AM Check-in/10AM NAMIWalks steps off.

Old Stone Church Fall Food Drive

Old Stone Church is pleased to announce the return of our Fall Food Drive with the
Greater Cleveland Food Bank on **Sunday, October 8th, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

We will once again pass out OSC shopping totes (to keep) as well as grocery bags with
shopping lists attached beginning on Sunday, September 3rd, after worship service.

Bags will be distributed each Sunday until the food drive (*while supplies last!*)



@ Old Stone Church

Monday September 4, 2023

Labor Day/Building and Offices Closed

Wednesday September 6, 2023 6 PM

Welcome & Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday September 10, 2023 2:30PM

OSC Homecoming Picnic/North Olmsted Community Cabin

Last Sunday Attendance

In-Person: 84

Online: 155

There are many ways to support The Old Stone Church

Online Giving: oldstonechurch.org/giving/	Mobile Giving: Text the keyword " oldstonecle " to 73256
Mail to: Old Stone Church Attn: Financial Office 91 Public Square Cleveland, OH 44113	Checks should be made payable to "Old Stone Church." If you would like to designate your contribution to one of Old Stone's mission projects, please make a note on the memo line.

THE OLD STONE CHURCH

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 Fax: 216-241-6149

Website: www.OldStoneChurch.org E-Mail: info@OldStoneChurch.org

Music copied under ccli#1638695

Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Minister of Music: David L. Dettloff

The Old Stone Quartet

Val Sibila, *soprano*
Elizabeth Rickel, *alto*
Frederick Peterbark, *tenor*
R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2023
Beth Buchanan
Robert Hubert Jr.
Judy Macuga
Harriet Niles
Lee Ann Rader
Marty Vassel
John Young

Class of 2024
Michelle Baron
Janie Chambers
Fred Heider
Bernard Medie
Bob Reid

Class of 2025
Kara Bane
Willie Brown
Dave Finley

Church Deacons:

Class of 2023
Melissa Maffia
Pete Maffia
Mary Mikula
Michael Rolan
Penni Rolan
Alyssa Niepokny

Class of 2024
Scott Bailey
Bernie Bischel
Carol Hoagland
Amy Wheeler
John Wheeler

Class of 2025
Elie Medie
Mark Pichler

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